On Althusser and Reading Capital (1988, recent edit)

By Etienne Balibar

I. Conceptual Object of Politics

Althusser is actually eclectic and more interested in Epicurus than Marx, more interested in Heidegger than Marxism. I meant in fact the conceptual object, Althusser used to argue in the 1960s and this was his elegant point as a beureaucrat he is always known to be saying. Or as we receive it recently – something like Reading Capital and For

Marx writer who is about Bertolazzi more, and wants Spinoza to be remembered and is a purist.

II. My Own Rendition of Wittgenstein perhaps

That we can just do a jotting based on Wittgenstein – just picture him, conjecture and draw a line of demarcation – simple language game is materialist or idealist – if materialist one is simply a daily life living subject – a form of life perhaps, just that formalism called in fact even whatever singularity recently by Giorgio Agamben – but

earlier in fact we called this bourgeois subject – and the real process is Tractatus – which is in a idealist gesture the problems of life, but in a materialist gesture all its poetry – a man torsioned by life, wailing and crying but is then about the Act – which is about in fact politics.

III. Against Wittgenstein and the Act – towards a more Marxist style

In conceptualism therefore we move to Marx – and generalize a better process – just the surface of Marx – a citizen subject or even egalitie and

libertie of the masses – egalibertie or finally even democracy as a subject and even protest politics as about general themes of ‘democratic consensus and actual politics.’ Such things are better than the misery of Wittgenstein.